

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL COAST AREA COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 16, 2000

Welcome and Opening Remarks

LTJG Gabrielle McGrath, USCG, opened the meeting by introducing Warden Helen Kevo as the temporary co-chair replacement for Warden Mike Fitzsimmons who retired this month. After this introduction, LTJG McGrath briefed the Committee on the status of the 2000 Area Contingency Plan distribution. At the next meeting, compact discs of the plan will be available to all Committee members. For the general public, the ACP is available for download from the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d11/msosf>, or it may be purchased from Kinko's copying service located at 1920 Mount Diablo Boulevard in Walnut Creek, CA. Their telephone number is (925)-934-8254, and the point of contact's name is Rae Ann Andrist.

LTJG McGrath informed the group of a draft instruction prepared by Coast Guard Headquarters that outlines the requirements for an area contingency plan. This instruction is based on our area plan, and thus, there are only a few minor differences between the instruction and what we already have established. One interesting point to note from this instruction is that it requires all area plans throughout the United States to be updated into this format by 2005. Following that revision, it requires a standard three-year revision cycle. LTJG McGrath also mentioned another product recently distributed from Headquarters, the Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan Template and Management System (ACPTAMS). The ACPTAMS provides a step by step process for creating an ACP from scratch. The Committee discussed the new revision of the ACP and noted that many of the sensitive sites in the Central Coast area do not include site strategies or any detailed site information. The group recommended that we work on this area for the next revision cycle. Chuck Mehlert, California State Parks, commented that the Park Service is currently working on a project that would improve the information included in the ACP for sensitive sites located within state parks. They are creating maps that will contain information useful to response personnel unfamiliar with the park. They would include designated access routes into the park by response vehicles, a parking area for incoming equipment, and a designated route to gain access to the beach. The map will also show the location of telephones, rest rooms, water, and the park office.

Upcoming Training

The Committee discussed upcoming training for the Central Coast Area. Ms. Heather Parker-Hall, NOAA, offered to present a day and a half course on Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT) prior to the upcoming process exercise on June 15, 2000. Since establishing and deploying SCAT teams is one of the major objectives for the drill, this training would be very useful to those people who have not had prior experience in the process. It was also noted that some basic Incident Command System (ICS) training would be useful prior to the drill for those people with no experience. LTJG McGrath stated that she could have Coast Guard ICS trainers provide this training for a half day following the second day of the SCAT course.

Recent Spills

Recent spills throughout the area were discussed. A spill of significant interest to the Committee occurred on February 19, 2000. Mimicking the scenario from our recent Central Coast Oil Spill Exercise in September of 1999, a Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) locomotive derailed near Stockton. One of the locomotive's side fuel tanks cracked discharging 600 gallons of diesel oil which contaminated the surrounding soil. Of this amount, 10 gallons entered Little John Creek, a tributary of the San Joaquin River. An MSO San Francisco Bay pollution response team was deployed to the scene and established a Unified Command with California Department of Fish and Game and UPRR. The railroad was very

proactive in responding to the incident by hiring ACTI to clean up the spill, as well as removing the tracks and excavating the impacted soil. Another recent case involved a 300,000 gallon raw sewage spill. This case adds to a series of raw sewage incidents in the Central Coast area. In addition to several small spills in Moss Landing harbor, there was a minor 1 gallon spill from the F/V BUCANEER in Monterey harbor. The harbormaster and MSO responded. Paul Dangreau, Monterey Harbor District, described the resources that the harbor has available to its tenants. In the past, the harbor provided a free, "serve yourself" type service of sorbent materials. This service turned into a problem when people were taking more than their share of the products. Now, the harbor still provides the items at no cost; however, the tenants need to ask the harbormaster for them. Resources at the other Central Coast harbors were noted. Moss Landing maintains a Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) haulout boat to gather waste from its vessels. Santa Cruz offers biosocks to their tenants which can be used in the vessels' bilges to soak and "eat" the oil.

Other Area Committee Activities

LTJG McGrath briefed the Committee on the activities of the other Area Committees in the San Francisco Bay COTP zone. After restructuring the subcommittees, the San Francisco Bay and Delta Area Committee held signups for the new groups. Ted Mar, OSPR, provided a brief on the new Trajectories subcommittee. The California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response is looking to the state's area committees to determine what trajectories should be included in the area plan and under what conditions. At this time, OSPR Headquarters is not planning on providing any further guidance. Once the area committees have presented their recommendations, OSPR will determine what will be legal for response plan purposes. A letter will be mailed out by the end of March promulgating exactly what the state headquarters is looking for. The next meeting for the SFB&D Area Committee will be held at 9:30 AM on May 9th, 2000 at the Banners Club on Coast Guard Island in Alameda, CA.

The North Coast Area Committee is continuing planning for the upcoming PREPEX. The drill is scheduled for December 9, 2000. The National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) from Elizabeth City will be coming out to assist in the planning process. The Committee's next meeting will be held at 2:00 PM on April 26th at the Adorni Center in Eureka, CA.

Central Coast Process Exercise Planning

The Committee discussed planning for the upcoming process exercise. As stated previously, the drill will take place on June 15, 2000 at the California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response Headquarters in Monterey, CA. Since the last meeting, the subcommittee determined that the exercise will involve a tarball incident in Monterey rather than a sinking fishing vessel. The group decided to change the scenario in order to better accomplish the objectives established by the Committee. The subcommittee scheduled meetings for March 28th and April 27th at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve to continue the development of the drill. The group will update the Committee on the planning status for the exercise at the next Area Committee meeting.

New Business

The Committee discussed establishing subcommittees such as Sensitive Sites and Geographic Response Plans, Trajectories, and Local Resources similar to the structure of the San Francisco Bay and Delta Area Committee. The group noted that these subcommittees could help improve the quality of the Central Coast section of the ACP for the next revision. The Committee then analyzed the new state unannounced drill program for the oil spill response organizations (OSRO) and what impact it will have on our area of responsibility. The group determined that, with no plan holders and no high volume ports located in this area, the new policy will have minimum influence in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 AM Thursday, May 11, 2000 at the Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center at 1451 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA.